

Public Health Committee Public Hearing
February 27, 2023
Testimony from Liz Stern
Support for SB 1076 and SB 1075

Members of the Public Health Committee, Please consider my support for SB 1076/An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients and SB 1075/An Act Concerning Hospice and Palliative Care.

Please understand that I have read this bill carefully and look to lawmakers to grant Connecticut residents the same right that my siblings and friends who live in other states have. I have carefully studied opposing views and also read all of the opposing testimony that is currently on record for SB 1076 and hope that the fears of those who see no need for this right do not negate the wishes of over 70% of the Connecticut residents who believe this is a personal freedom that must be granted and protected.

My mother was in Hospice care on three occasions and died without distress or pain of natural causes. My father was recently under palliative care for 3 months and now, at 97 years old, is in good health. Neither of my parents ever contemplated, nor were candidates for medical aid in dying. However, as I contemplate my mortality and review my last wishes I look to a time *if and only if I am faced with unbearable pain and suffering*, I will have the peace of mind to include Hospice, as well as medical aid in my death. I have dedicated the last 7 years to unwavering advocacy for person-centered care for our elderly and disabled population who live in nursing homes. As is so clearly stated by Compassion and Choices, SB 1076 upholds the ultimate in person-directed care.

“While only a small number of people will choose to use the option, to patients, it is a prime litmus test of person-directed care. It exemplifies a medical system that respects patients by allowing them to assert their values and priorities as death approaches.”

I write on behalf of many family members and friends in asking that you pass HB 1076 and give Connecticut residents the peace of mind that they may face the close of their life with this safety net in place *if* the need arises to address unbearable pain and suffering.

Thank you,
Elizabeth (Liz) Stern
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